

Superstitious Women of Paris Never Pronounce One French Word Because of Its "Hoodoo"

"Guigne" Feared on Account of the Microbe of Bad Luck—Consulting the Elements on Mere Suspicion—French Specialists in Luck—Dolls Made of Dough Carried in Jeweled Powder Boxes and Handbags.

HERE goes the most superstitious woman in Paris," he said. We were walking in the Bois de Boulogne in Paris. The woman, an imaginary herself unobserved, stood and held something white up in the air.

"She is waiting for the wind to curve it, or the dust or rain to spot it. If the side that has her name is bent or spotted she hies home without delay. She resorts to this when doubtful or uneasy. It is her sure sign bad luck is lurking. Just drops anything she has on hand and waits till after tea."

Thus she consults the elements on mere suspicion. She will not stay in a room with a red-headed man, and has quit dinner parties on pretext of ill health when there was one. "Judas had a red beard," she explains. Nor will she do anything new or important the day she has seen a man with an arm in a sling or a bandaged head, or heard an old gray-haired man sing in the street or a cat mew in the house.

"She is Mme. Paul E.—one of the prettiest, most fashionable and up-to-date

women of Paris," said my friend. "Yet her husband has to set his watch an hour ahead whenever he goes out with her. If a horse whinnies as she passes she stops and says it is a tip to play the races. She claims that all horses know what horse will win, and she can run \$10 up to \$100 quicker than any one else saw. Some call it luck, but I've seen her stop and look at a cab horse in the face for three minutes at a time."

"Yes, I said, 'but—' he said. "Perhaps she counts the hairs in his nose. I tell you as I hear it. She lies head all day every Friday, like the Countess Daudot de P—."

You have heard of those who will not begin any journey or commence a work of moment on a Friday; but some Paris women refuse every invitation for that day of bad luck. The Countess makes a clean sweep. Every Friday of her life she lies all day in bed, just seeing no one and doing nothing but eat bonbons, sleep and read a novel. She says that it

OR SPENDS THE DAY READING HER DREAM BOOK.

does her health good. And she gains time to read her dream book. "Mme. Paul says she wouldn't take a million dollars for the things she knows. When she meets a funeral she first says a short prayer, then retraces her steps half a block and makes for her destination by another route," explained the man. "If she meets a cross-eyed child under fourteen she does the same with-

out the prayer. When any one sneezes in her presence she immediately says: 'God bless you.' Though this ancient politeness is common enough in Paris among acquaintances, it causes Mme. Paul embarrassment among strangers. "Ah-ka-choo!" went some one in the paddock of the Longchamps race course one day. "God bless you!" exclaimed the lovely French woman.

"A charming afternoon it is, made-moiselle!" he answered in good French, though being a ruddy-cheeked American boy, and he was surprised when she walked off with her nose in the air. All this is but the outer edge of the great mystery of the guigne, the cherries—and I have risked its hoodoo by writing the word and you in reading it.

It is the one word of the French language that must never be pronounced. You must say cherries. It is the only thing that the beautiful women of Paris fear.

If you ask what it means you will be told it is bad luck, but it is more, in one sense it means the hoodoo. In ancient times, they are very expensive. Collecting them has become a mania. "The good luck of the many little children who played with them things to those toys like an aura," Mme. Lydia told me. "The proof is that it works. I could tell you."

Bad luck can attach to persons. If a person brings you bad luck, avoid that person. Avoid those who suffer from bad luck. Like her friend Aureole, she keeps tab on new acquaintances. "I admit, and I see no harm in getting down the date I make any new acquaintance. In a parallel column I note the good and bad things happening to me, with the dates. When I find the dates getting to correspond, why, I find it prudent to act in consequence."

I talked over these mysteries with the man who knows all about Paris. "That's nothing to the case of the Greek

boy to whom Aureole gave the reputation of the evil eye," he said. "He drove him from Paris. He was well in the swim until he met Aureole. She refused his acquaintance."

"He has the evil eye," she said, and soon everybody got to repeating it. "You know what the evil eye is? It's a man who cannot help bringing bad luck; and it's so contagious that a single glance from him, if delivered straight and right, will start a lunatic or a murderer. It is known by a peculiar look in their eyes. From that hour the Greek boy's name was scratched off the book, and he found himself alone in Paris."

They are not heartless. They would suffer one piece of bad luck for a friend, but they dread the series. "There you are—the series; or in other words, the cherries. Originally it was a Parisian theatrical superstition applying particularly to new pieces."

From the first rehearsal to the final ringing up of the curtain, every soul connected with the new pieces was careful to do nothing that might bring on the subtle needs of bad luck; that is to say, the guigne. Guigne in the dictionary means persistent bad luck, but it is also a kind of cherries.

To pronounce the word was found to be particularly unlucky. Bisset laughed at the superstition during the preparation of "Carmen," and at its last rehearsal he walked to the center of the stage and exclaimed: "Zut for the guigne!" Every one knows the otherwise unaccountable frost of the great opera during its early representations—and how Bisset committed suicide, imagining it would never be a success.

The French have several names for cherries. What we call ox hearts they call bigarons; what we call pie cherries they call cerises. Cerises is the general name for the fruit, but a big, black, juicy variety is named the guigne. The word is spelled and pronounced the same as the word for bad luck. Therefore instead of saying "guigne," they always say "cherries."

There are specialists in luck. The series of bad luck can be broken and the specialists know the best ways to do it. Alexandrine comes to your house every morning for six days and beats a drum in a peculiar manner. She is expensive and requires appointments.

An old Janitress in the rue de Babylon makes talismans of cork and tells you where to place them. If you don't place them just right it's all wrong. Now you will see them all wearing talismans.

Amparito F— has a chrysoprase with a star engraved on it mounted in a ring which she never takes off. Note it is a brand-new chrysoprase, not recut, because this peculiar stone, which brings good luck when it is not cut under the evil influence, can also carry the evil cherries. If you don't believe it ask the Louvre museum curator.

It was by the aid of an emerald engraved with a lion, says Mme. Lydia, that Methuselah lived to be the oldest man, and the prophet Aaron wore an amethyst engraved with a bear in a belt. Mme. Lydia has all this from traveling in the mountains of Greece. The horses of the stagecoach began balking on the edge of a precipice, to the danger of every one, when a young Turk jumped from his seat, placed a hind wheel with a big stone and calmed the horses on the edge of the abyss.

"I have done no act of courage," he said. "I did not risk my life at all. I wear an amulet that protects me from accidents."

And with this he showed a crystal suspended from his neck. It was engraved with a bear and a bunch of grapes. All right; they wear such talismans ostentatiously and brag about their virtues, yet if you look at a lunatic or a murderer or a super party with one of these women watch her closely and you'll see her se-

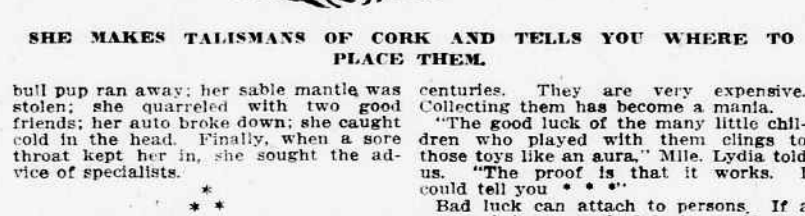
cretly fingering a ball of bread crumb underneath the tablecloth. You know the soft part of bread. Kneaded in the fingers it becomes like dough or putty.

Dough! Mysterious stuff! Witches of all ages used it for their spells. The Italian sorcerer of Catherine de Medici made a dough doll with a crown on its head to win the love of Marguerite de Valois for the unfortunate Mole. Charles IX was mortally hoodooed by his enemies sticking pins in a dough doll mysteriously named after him.

Dough dolls are not things to brag about. A woman may show her jewel talisman to one and all, but underneath the tablecloth she kneads the bread ball into a dark secret.

The bread ball takes a shape behind the tablecloth. It may be a rude heart or a disk (meaning money, the shape of a gold piece), or an animal (one big lump for the body and five little ones stuck on for legs and head to make her dance win at the races. Frequently when it has a form it is the antique dough doll, which she names for a person loved or hated, and her sentiment pours out upon the occult object while she laughs and ebbs. Probably if you could search the handbags, pockets or jeweled powder boxes carried by these superstitious women you would often find the simple, formless ball of dough.

It is just to keep away bad luck.



SHE MAKES TALISMANS OF CORK AND TELLS YOU WHERE TO PLACE THEM.



"JUDAS HAD A RED BEARD," SHE SAID.

PRESERVING THE AMERICAN TRIBES IN PLASTER AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM

THE colors that mark the complexities of the groups of representatives of American Indian tribes in the glass cases at the National Museum seem as indelible as the memory of an unkind word from the lips of a friend.

One wanders up and down the spacious corridors in the ethnological section of the museum and pauses for a moment here and for a longer time there, admiring the people represented. If one is a woman she wishes she had some of the exquisite bead work that adorns the clothing of the figures. Or one belongs to the stronger but equally humanly covetous sex, he is apt to wish his figure were as perfect and his muscles as finely developed.

Few stop to think of the labor, research and skill that must be brought to focus before these people groups are ready for exhibition. All these human elements must have the ripening influence of Father Time before the thing as a whole is in shape, but so skillful have been the minds and hands that had a part in the making of these groups that the highest attainment in art has been accomplished. "The art that conceals art."

While many people are engaged in making a group a perfect unit as a finished product, the original idea of what shall be shown must necessarily come from one brain, one directing power. In the case of the ethnological exhibit, that power is William H. Holmes, head curator of the National Museum. Under his direction sixteen groups have been made illustrative of the tribes from the most northern point of land on the western hemisphere, down to the plains through Mexico and Guatemala, and on to Brazil and the far-off peninsula of Patagonia.

Ideas come to all, but not all the most

cherished ones are so practical as those of Prof. Holmes. He knows what he wants—knows definitely just what tribes are most typical of a section of country—and knowing that is a big step along the way; but it is the first one only. Life masks and photographs of many members of the tribes in question must be taken, individual pictures as well as family groups, and of the accessories of the group as it is to appear when finished.

Sometimes the photographs of as many as thirty or forty people are necessary to get what is required for the composite group—or rather as a working nucleus for those who take up the work where the photographer leaves off with his developed and printed picture.

"Will you tell me something of the process of the making—the actual construction of these groups?" the interviewer asked Prof. Holmes.

"That," he replied, "you can best ascertain by visiting the workrooms downstairs, where Mr. Egberts puts the finishing touches on them. Or you could visit the studio of Mr. Dunbar, where the figures are cast."

"Does Mr. Dunbar work entirely from drawings, or—"

Prof. Holmes grasped the thought of the question before the words were uttered, and he interrupted just where the interviewer wished to stop.

"The figures are all modeled by living models. They are exact as to detail of eyes and expression. There is nothing lost when the figure is being made, and you will find the anthropological laboratory on the ground floor," he added.

The interviewer found Mr. Egberts and his assistant in the laboratory surrounded by casts in all stages of nudity and in various poses. There were the white plaster casts just as they were received from the sculptor, recumbent figures, men, play-boys, and even a boy in a "frolic" pose, who looked as ready for a "frolic" or a "fuss" as the bluejackets of the United States.

"Our principal work comes in the coloring of the figures," Mr. Egberts explained. "In painting the skins the correct shade of aboriginal flesh and in pre-

paring the figures for their clothes."

"Do you coat the figures with wax?" was asked.

"By no means. Wax is not used in these days, nor would it be possible to use such a medium in this climate. We make the figures after polishing the skins with a preparation, and after the oil has dried in we are ready for the paint brush; that is, after all the extraneous things have been properly attended to."

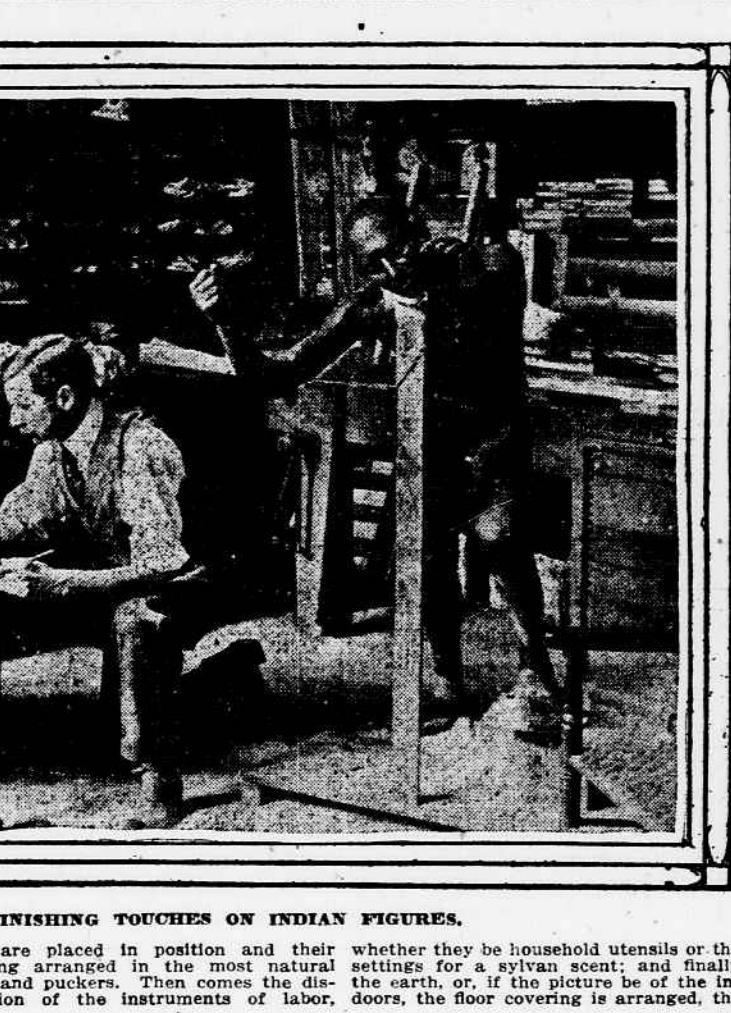
Scattered around the laboratory are casts of arms, legs and other parts of human anatomy as well as innumerable busts and heads of prehistoric and present-day tribes. When the figures are ready for their clothes and accessories about two-thirds of the process of their preparation is completed, but the other third is most important, for the seemingly little things are a vital factor in the make-up of a perfect picture.

No society belle getting ready for her presentation at court has more time and infinite pains put upon her wardrobe than do these lay figures, for every detail of dress and adornment must be correct as to texture, color and arrangement of drapery.

"Come with me and we shall see how a group actually grows," said Mr. Egberts, leading the way to the main floor where the cases containing the chief anthropological exhibit are located.

"Lend a hand here, Oscar," he said to the colored assistant who was working behind one of the cases, and there, when the two men had shoved the case to one side, was a motley array of parts and accessories of Indian war, Indian warfare and household goods of a simple kind, bowls and the ever-present "piki" stone upon which the meal is prepared.

Passing around to an alcove formed by other cases, the interviewer came to the particular case for which many of the things were to be used. There in the corner was the typical chimney place of the Hopi Indians, the chimney formed of discarded earthen cooking pots with the bottoms broken away and the pots piled one upon another. It is one of the most primitive forms of chimney, but with a distinctly modern flavor, for the Hopi housewife does not believe in having her



PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON INDIAN FIGURES.

door closed and locked and the scene is ready for your admiration.

The family group, the men, women and children, are shown at their everyday occupations, has been chosen as the best method of showing to this and future generations something of the lives of the people who were Americans before America existed as such. One of the most attractive groups in the collection is that of Chilkat Indians. These people live on the Lynn canal in southeastern Alaska, and their homes at the rate and the specialists know the best ways to do it. Alexandrine comes to your house every morning for six days and beats a drum in a peculiar manner. She is expensive and requires appointments.

The famous Chilkat blankets are not woven upon a loom, but the foundation strands are suspended from a bar of wood and fall free at the ends. Strange as it may seem, there is a process similar to that used in making goblet tapestry in the construction of a genuine Chilkat blanket, the figures being woven and inserted separately.

The man in the group who is being offered food from a quaint, wooden, hand-carved dish is wearing one of these artistically valuable blankets, and the head of the family, seated while carving a mask, has another less elaborate one about his shoulders. The Hupa group of northwestern California represent the mixed tribes of California and Oregon, and are physically between the large-bodied Sioux and the undersized Pueblo. They are represented in the act of preparing the evening meal, the man in the act of lighting a fire by the "twirling drill" and the women of his household pulverizing the freshly gathered acorns, which form a major portion of their food.

From an artistic, as well as an instructive point of view, the Patagonian group of Tehuelche Indians stand out prominently in the collection. Here the head of the family, clad in a skunk skin robe, is ready to mount his horse; his wife has already evered the chair in putting the halter on her pet ostrich preparatory

to breaking camp and moving to other parts.

The collection is not yet complete, and it is the hope of the museum that at no far distant date the museum will be able to perpetuate the races of other countries than America by collections representing the family and the home environment of the various peoples of the earth.

Hold Your Umbrella Up.

"THERE are a great many persons injured on windy, rainy nights because they hold their umbrellas down in order to protect their faces from the driving rain," explained an ambulance surgeon. "In their effort to be protected from the rain they place themselves in grave danger of being struck and run over by surface cars, automobiles and other vehicles."

"If you wish proof of my assertion just stand in a doorway some night, where you are protected from the rain, and where you are in a position to see an expanse of thoroughfare which all kinds of vehicles use, and you will be surprised at the large number of persons who will notice crossing the thoroughfare with their umbrellas held down so far that it is impossible for them to see anything approaching. They seem oblivious of danger, and a spectator would surmise from their actions that there was not the remotest chance of an accident occurring."

It is a fact that many pedestrians are injured on windy, rainy nights. With their umbrellas pulled down so that it is impossible to see the coming of vehicles and the pedestrians walk in front of vehicles and are knocked down and injured before they realize what has happened.

A Lesson From History.

F. IRVING FLETCHER, at one of the Sphinx Club's dinners in New York, began a historical review of advertising with the following remarks:

"None understood the value of advertising better than Samson. Samson took two solid columns. The result was that he brought down the house."

Mme. Van Rappard, Wife of Minister From the Netherlands, a Diplomat and a Good Housekeeper

She Loves to Dig in the Garden and Keep Her House in Order—What She Thinks of America and Americans—Is Opposed to Woman Suffrage.

HAT interests me especially about Americans," said Mme. van Rappard, wife of the new minister from the Netherlands, "is their wonderful activity. Such a vigorous nation I have never seen before! And with it all, the young women are as fresh and beautiful as flowers!"

"My daughter goes to dances and balls in the evening, comes home late and remains in bed until late the next day to get 'slept out' as we say in Dutch. I go out shopping in the early morning and see the young American ladies who have been dancing the evening before equally as much as my daughter looking so wide awake and active that I marvel at them. Our women at home could never do this. They seem to require more rest than the Americans."

"Perhaps," suggested Mme. Ernestine, the charming young daughter of the minister, who happened to be in the drawing room at the time her mother was speaking, "the difference is due to the climate. American air seems to be so much more stimulating than that of Europe. I myself have felt the difference though we have been here but a short time."

Both Madame and her daughter are two of the most interesting acquisitions that diplomatic society in Washington could ever hope to meet. In the first place, they speak charming and fluent

English, sprinkled here and there with a French bonnet that seems to lend just the correct foreign atmosphere to their conversation.

Secondly, they have had unlimited and valuable experiences which provide them with interesting, original topics for discussion. Lastly, they are intensely progressive. This quality is undeniably the link which will bind them closely to their American associates.

After a stay in America of only three months, they are able to answer in French with a promptness almost every question put to them concerning their impressions of American habits and institutions with a promptitude that revealed keen, ready intelligence.

"From what I have been able to judge," said Madame, when asked to tell what she thought of us. "I am of the opinion that the American mind is especially inventive. You excel the world in wonderful invention. I think you are more capable along that line than in art."

"You are so quick, so alert; you see to the heart of things at once. On the personal side, your sisterly reinforces the expression of this quality. On the professional side it causes you to experiment with and make things."

"New. I do not say," cautioned Madame, "that you are lacking in artistic perception. I am not qualified to speak of that, for I have not studied your art; in fact I have not yet been able to visit any of your galleries. But it seems to me, with my limited opportunity for observation, that your invention is the pre-eminent American accomplishment."



MME. VAN RAPPAARD, Wife of Minister from the Netherlands.

am glad, for now that I am in America I am prepared to do the new steps love dancing. The American girls are so graceful, and they dress so beautifully that I think I am for the moment about your balls than anything else."

Both Madame and Mademoiselle are learning to run a motor car. They have lately purchased a new machine. Riding and driving are also favorite recreations with them. They are fond of the vigorous sports, and are clever linguists, speaking French, German and Italian. Mademoiselle can follow a conversation in Arabic, one of the most difficult of languages to learn, but can speak only a little of it.

"I do not care for golf," she said. "It is so tedious to walk about as one must do in golf. I like something more exciting. Do we have any new games abroad that Americans have possibly not heard of? No. On the other hand, new games are more liable to originate here than abroad. Over there we are constantly hearing about the new things people are doing in America, and we learn them so that you will not get ahead of us."

"We like the theater. The American theaters are wonderful. Your actresses are all so pretty. Why, in Berlin one sees old, ugly women the open stage and all of the singers are young and beautiful."

Mme. van Rappard is a native of Holland. She lived in the country as a child on her father's farm. "I am most interested in my home. I have heard any day about the things above everything. Dutch women are housewives above all else. I personally supervise every undertaking in my household. I was brought up with the idea that my linen closet was the most important thing in life. It must be in perfect order—with my sheets, towels, napkins and tablecloths arranged just so, in even piles, with the home on the same side as should be disgraced. This idea was bred in me. I was saying to Ernestine only this morning that we must begin to look after the linen closet here at the legations and arrange it as I have always been taught to do."

Mme. van Rappard is of medium height. She has gray hair and dark eyes. She is cultured and intelligent. Her English diction is wonderfully well chosen and expressive. Her enunciation is clear and correct. She is one of the most gracious of women.

speaks with the animation of a Frenchman. "I am reserving another woman," she said, "until I have had a trip to New York until later."

"We like Washington so much," she said, "that we are continually saying 'New York' to ourselves. The broad, sweeping streets both remind me of Berlin more than any city I have ever visited. 'New York' is the only name that I have ever seen before. We were there only two days, but we were amazed. The buildings, the traffic, the elevators, the street cars above and below the ground, and the bustle appalled us. We had just come from a quiet farm in Holland, and it was a human impossibility to bridge

the extreme. I am reserving another woman," she said, "until I have had a trip to New York until later."

It was impossible to leave Madame without putting the inevitable question—what the feminist movement had done for her. "I am sorry to say," answered Madame, "that I have not seen it. It is beginning to arouse women at home."

Judging that Madame was not in sympathy, she was asked what were her objections to the movement. "I can't understand," she replied, "what women expect the men to do after they assume their responsibilities in government. If they usurp the man's place what will be the result? The child and keep house, I expect. That does not seem to be fitting, and yet to me it seems the inevitable outcome."

"I believe that women are intelligent, but their minds work best about different lines from those of men. In the Hague we have a few women attorneys. They are considered splendid ones, too. But I think women's ambitions should be limited to home and government. As for the unmarried women who must work, I think they can be happy and useful without the right to vote as well as with it."

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On the north front of the Washington Heights Presbyterian Church, on Kalorama road just off Columbia road, there is a large, two-story house with a red brick wall of the church building. The low-roofed, brick church at the north-west corner of Connecticut avenue and Bancroft place is giving encouragement to ivy, and on the new part of that church on Connecticut avenue northward of the corner of H street and Connecticut avenue, the ivy has been planted at the foundation of the Bradley house, and soon the brick walls of that structure will be hidden from view.

You will find ivy growing on the light-colored house at the northern corner of Rhode Island avenue and 17th street, and also on the large house, 1703 Rhode Island avenue.

In some parts of Washington, nearly always on the shady side of the street, you will see ivy growing on the wall of a house. This is because the shade and the rain drippings from the trees, it has been difficult or impossible to grow thick, bright grass. In front of 1730 Massachusetts avenue there is a semi-circular ivy plat between the sidewalk and the curving driveway which passes from the street to the doorway of the house. The front yard of the fine white brick house close to the corner of Massachusetts avenue and 17th street is an ivy plot. There is another semi-circular ivy lawn between the driveway and the circular driveway in front of a house on K street, three doors east of 17th street.

On 15th street may be seen several of these ivy lawns, and that in front of 915 15th street has long been one of the botanical features of that block.

A growth of ivy is spreading over the walls of the marble terrace of the Capitol and has woven a thick mat on the walls of the terrace approach at the